



COUNTY OF SAN BENITO

JOE PAUL GONZALEZ

COUNTY CLERK, AUDITOR & RECORDER: *REGISTRAR OF VOTERS*

E-Mail: jgonzalez@auditor.co.san-benito.ca.us

PRESS RELEASE

May 15, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT ON SUPREME COURT RULING REGARDING SAME SEX MARRIAGE

STATEMENT OF COUNTY CLERK, AUDITOR & RECORDER
JOE PAUL GONZALEZ:

The California State Supreme Court today issued a decision overturning the State's ban on same sex marriages. A copy of the 172-page court document is available on the court's website at <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/S147999.PDF>.

This Office is awaiting legal analysis of the Court's decision and a timeline for implementation; however, the court ruling is expected to take effect no sooner than 30 days after the ruling issuance. The San Benito County Clerk, Auditor & Recorder is not authorized to issue marriage licenses or to perform civil marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples at this time. The 30 day period will give us the time to work with the State Office of Vital Records to revise the marriage license form and prepare for the number of couples who will want to obtain a license and get married. We will provide updated information through media releases and posted notices on our website – www.sbcvote.us.

We understand there is a great deal of interest in the Court's decision and that many couples are awaiting information on how to obtain a marriage license and arrange for a ceremony. We will release this information as soon as it is available.

Information on current marriage licensing services in the County of San Benito is available at www.sbcvote.us.

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR: 481 Fourth St. 2 nd Floor		Hollister, CA 95023
COUNTY CLERK, RECORDER: <i>REGISTRAR OF VOTERS</i> : 440 Fifth Street, Room 206		Hollister, CA 95023
Auditor: (831) 636-4090	County Clerk: (831) 636-4029	Recorder: (831) 636-4046
Auditor Fax: (831) 635-9340	Elections: (831) 636-4016	Recorder Fax: (831) 636-2939

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